

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 108

Designating July 16, 1995, as “National Atomic Veterans Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 6 (legislative day, APRIL 5), 1995

Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself, Mr. SIMON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. REID, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating July 16, 1995, as “National Atomic Veterans Day”.

Whereas July 16, 1995, is the 50th anniversary of the first detonation of an atomic bomb at Alamagordo, New Mexico;

Whereas the members of the Armed Forces who have been exposed to ionizing radiation as a result of the detonation of a nuclear weapon or device are considered to be America’s “atomic veterans”;

Whereas atomic veterans are in many ways one of the most neglected groups of United States veterans;

Whereas atomic veterans served their country patriotically and proudly, believing fully that the United States Gov-

ernment would protect them from any serious hazards to their health;

Whereas atomic veterans were not told of the hazards they faced from exposure to ionizing radiation, often were provided with little protection from such exposure even when deployed at or near ground zero immediately after test detonations of nuclear weapons, on occasion were not provided film badges to measure their exposure to radiation during such detonations, and were provided with no follow-up medical care or other monitoring to determine the health consequences of such exposure;

Whereas for 40 years after World War II Federal law contained no provisions specifically providing veterans compensation or health care for atomic veterans for service-connected radiogenic diseases; and

Whereas many of the 250,000 members of the Armed Forces who participated in post-World War II atmospheric nuclear testing were forbidden from publicly revealing such participation for reasons of national security and received no recognition for their important contributions to the United States and the Armed Forces: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) July 16, 1995, is designated as “National
3 Atomic Veterans Day”; and

4 (2) the President is authorized and requested to
5 issue a proclamation calling on the departments and
6 agencies of the Federal Government, State and local
7 governments, and the people of the United States to

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- 1 observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and
- 2 activities.

